

Week of May 11
8th Grade Language Arts
Mrs. Kolo

Hello! This week you will be reading an informational article closely and answering some questions. I have numbered the paragraphs for you to help you out a bit.

Remember: If you are having trouble finishing the assignments or feel overwhelmed by all the work (from this or any/all of your classes), reach out to me. I will help!

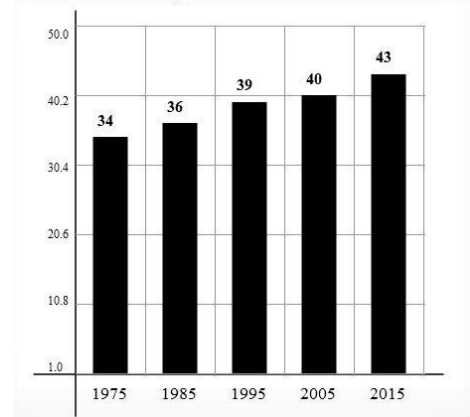


It's a Dog's Life

(1) “Once you have had a wonderful dog, a life without one, is a life diminished.”

—*Dean Koontz* Dean Koontz is not alone in his feelings about dogs. Dog ownership is growing in leaps and bounds. In the past, ownership was routinely limited to residential home owners. If you owned a house with a white picket fence, you were expected to have a dog. Today ownership has broadened to all locations, even high-rise city apartments. Landlords are now recognizing their renters' need for canine companionship, and often allow them to own dogs for a nominal pet fee.

Pet Ownership Per U.S. Adult Citizen



(2) But the absence of a backyard brings difficulties of its own. When these owners come home from work every day, they cannot simply open their back doors and let their dogs run around outside for a while. They must walk them through busy streets, with few opportunities to run and play. This led to the creation of “bark parks”. These parks deliver a fun place for city dogs to run, play, and get rid of some of their energy.

Exercise

(3) In the past, dogs were born to work. For thousands of years, they spent their days hunting for food, herding livestock, and defending their families. They are still born with enormous energy, but are often unable to let it out during the day. They get their food for free, and have very little, if any, responsibilities. So that energy sometimes crosses over into undesirable behavior, like chewing shoes or digging holes in carpets and furniture.

(4) Therefore, it is very important to provide both play and exercise for dogs. They need to get rid of this pent-up energy in a constructive way. Dog parks are the perfect solution.

Socialization

(5) In addition to exercise and play, dogs also need socialization. They must learn to get along with other dogs, and people. It is essential that they learn how to react positively to friendly

strangers and other dogs. This takes patience, time, and diligence on the part of both dogs and owners.

(6) Dogs that do not learn how to get along with others will eventually get into trouble. If a dog bites another dog or a person, the owner is legally responsible and may have to pay punitive damages. The dog may even be removed from the home.

(7) Dog parks provide many learning opportunities for positive interactions. It wouldn't be unusual for a dog to meet numerous people and dogs during one night at a dog park. They get to play, exercise, and socialize all in one big happy place.

Criticism

(8) Although there are many positive aspects to a "bark park", they recently have come under attack. Some dog owners avoid dog parks because of the increased chance of getting fleas. These fleas take up residence in the grass and shrubbery, and pounce when a dog walks by. If there are numerous dogs in a dog park, then the chances of getting fleas increases significantly.

(9) Others are aggravated by people who do not follow the rules. If a gate is left open, a dog could run right through it and get lost in the city. This may cause the owner to run all over town looking for it. If a dog owner does not keep a good eye on his or her dog, it can get away and cause harm to other dogs and people in the park. In addition, if a dog hasn't had its vaccines, it can spread diseases to other dogs, especially puppies that haven't been vaccinated yet.

(10) However, it is important to take the focus off the annoying, rule-breaking, pet owners. Dogs shouldn't lose out on their social opportunities simply because their owners are aggravated by other pet owners. The needs of their own dogs should take precedence.

(11) Ultimately, however, it is the individual dog owners who must decide whether dog parks are beneficial. It is an important decision that needs to be made with careful consideration.

It's a Dog's Life

Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper. You won't have enough room to write good, detailed answers here.

1. Cite the evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the author says explicitly about dog parks.

Highlight the most significant argument in yellow and cite it below.

2. What can be inferred by the graph? (an inference is a guess based on evidence) Explain.

3. Why do you suppose dogs have so much energy at the end of the day? Cite evidence to prove your ideas.

4. What is the central idea or main point of this text?

5. Explain how paragraph 8 fits into the overall structure of the text. How does it change the ideas in the text? Which words signaled the change in tone?

6. If a cat owner wrote this article, how would it be different? What would a cat owner emphasize differently than a dog owner?

7. Highlight a statement from the article about the necessity of "play". Evaluate the idea of "play" being essential to dogs. Is the reasoning sound in this article, and is the evidence sufficient to support this claim? Explain.

8. Explain the significance behind the title of this passage. What tone (attitude) does it set?

9. How do you suppose the author feels about dog parks? How does he respond to conflicting viewpoints?

10. Read these lines from paragraph 10: Dogs shouldn't lose out on their social opportunities simply because their owners are aggravated by other pet owners. The needs of their own dogs should take precedence. Based on context clues, what do you suppose the words "take precedence" mean?

11. Consider this statement from paragraph 10: However, it is important to take the focus off the annoying, rule-breaking, pet owners. How does this statement refine the author's viewpoint?

12. The author brought up several topics about dog parks. Fill in the sections below to explain his or her preferences.

Exercise –

Socialization –

Criticism -